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FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2081
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHXS/ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS PRIORITY
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY 0313
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1369
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI PRIORITY 0163
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY 0334
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY 0857
RUEHGO/AMEMBASSY RANGOON PRIORITY 0111
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY 0558
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 0110
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY 2015
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0995
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY 4821

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 000546

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR EAP/MLS LAURA SCHEIBE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/15/2019

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [BM](#) [IT](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: ITALY CONVOKES BURMESE CHARGE OVER
RE-ARREST OF ASSK

REF: STATE 46562

Classified By: A/POL M/C J. Liam Wasley for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

(C) Poloff delivered reftel demarche to Southeast Asia Desk Officer Fabio Schina May 11, pressing Italy to urge the Burmese Government to immediately release Aung San Suu Kyi (ASSK). Schina said Italy fully shared our position on the illegitimacy of ASSK's continued house arrest. He noted that the current circumstances were delicate, given the case of American citizen John Yettaw, who had reportedly entered the compound where ASSK was being held. Schina said that the MFA was actively considering how to respond to the approaching expiration of ASSK's house arrest at the end of May given this unusual complication.

(C) On May 14, the MFA convoked the Burmese charge d'affaires in Rome to formally protest the re-arrest of ASSK on charges of violating the terms of her house arrest. Asia Director General Massimo Iannucci received the charge and expressed Italy's grave concern for ASSK's physical health and well-being, and also called for the immediate release of ASSK and all other political prisoners in Burma. Schina told poloff that Iannucci also called on the Burmese Government to begin a dialog with the democratic opposition and ethnic groups in Burma so that the planned 2010 elections might be free and fair. Schina said the CDA took note of Iannucci's demarche, insisted that ASSK is in good health, and said that she is under a kind of house arrest within the prison compound, not in a cell.

DIBBLE